



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

July 31, 2009

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Members of the Grand Jury:

**RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE 2008-09
LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY**

Attached is the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) response to the 2008-09 Civil Grand Jury Report's recommendations (Attachment A). The Grand Jury's areas of interest specific to the Department included maintenance in jails, courts, and stations, the usage of cameras in custody facilities, and station jail staffing.

Should you have questions regarding our response, please contact Division Director Victor Rampulla at (323) 526-5357.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

A Tradition of Service

RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SECTION: DETENTION FACILITIES

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

The Sheriff's Department should examine the need for additional staffing at Temple City based on the volume by day of inmates over a year's time and determine if additional custody assistants could be added.

RESPONSE

The Sheriff's Department acknowledges the need for additional custody assistants to staff the jail during peak times, and requested these items through the annual budgetary process. However, the budget request was denied due to the current fiscal climate. The Sheriff's Department will continue to seek these additional items in future budget requests.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

The Sheriff's Department should examine the pilot program plan, determine if other facilities could benefit from cameras in protecting both the rights of staff and of inmates, and detail the related budget implications for other jails.

RESPONSE

The Sheriff's Department believes that cameras can be a useful tool for the jails. In addition to East Facility, North Facility has installed cameras and is seeking grant funding to enhance and update its current system. Cameras are located throughout many other jail facilities, and further implementation is dependent on funding sources and the jail master plan.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

Long Beach Superior Court – Latex gloves were strewn over a wide area outside the men's holding cells. There were holes in walls in two areas. The men's multiple inmate holding cell had a foul odor. Narrow corridors were cluttered with boxes and trash. The law enforcement agency should schedule corrective measures and remedy these health and maintenance issues within the next quarter.

RESPONSE:

The latex gloves have been discarded and the area has been cleaned. Every effort is made to discard used latex gloves into a trash receptacle following routine searches of prisoners. All holes in the walls have been repaired. Routine cleaning and air sanitizers have aided in eliminating the foul odors in the men's multiple inmate holding cell. All corridors have been cleaned and reorganized. Every effort is made to keep corridors clean and easily accessible.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

Metropolitan Traffic Court – The female holding tank had toilet paper plastered on the walls. Hallways were extremely crowded and dirty. The law enforcement agency should schedule corrective measures and remedy these health and maintenance issues within the next quarter.

RESPONSE:

The toilet paper has been removed from the walls of the female holding tank and ongoing routine cleaning is performed to ensure a clean environment. All corridors have been cleaned and reorganized, and are easily accessible.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

Pasadena Court -- The interior needs painting. The law enforcement agency should schedule corrective measures and remedy these health and maintenance issues within the next quarter.

RESPONSE:

The court lock-up area has been painted. Refurbishment of the entire Pasadena Courthouse was started in May 2009, and is expected to be completed by the end of the 2009 calendar year.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

Pico Rivera Station – Painting on floors and doors was unfinished. The law enforcement agency should schedule corrective measures and remedy these health and maintenance issues within the next quarter.

RESPONSE:

The painting of the floors and doors at the Pico Rivera Station Jail was completed in May 2009. Routine cleaning and maintenance is performed to maintain the recently painted environment, and the station is currently undergoing refurbishment.